Unit 2: Exercise 9

Read the information. Then read the extracts from the Reading passage and look at the words in bold. Match the words on the left from the Reading passage with the descriptions on the right.

It is very likely that an IELTS Reading passage will contain specialised words, or other words you do not know. Often, you do not need to know what the word means in order to answer a question. Sometimes, you can guess what a technical word means by reading around it in the passage. Where this is not possible, the meaning of the word may be given in a footnote.

1. After the pots were taken to a laboratory and analysed, it was discovered that they contained **theobromine**, a chemical found in cacao beans.
2. From these pictures, we know that cacao beans and chocolate drinks had a special status in Mayan society, and were often used in marriage ceremonies and other **rituals**.
3. Unusually for plants, cacao trees depended on tiny swarms of flies for **pollination**, and these insects lived only in a humid climate.
4. The beans were then crushed into powder, combined with **alkaline salts**, and sold as cheap blocks of cooking chocolate.
5. Later, in 1847 the first edible chocolate was created by Fry and Sons in England. Unfortunately, its **bitter** taste was unpopular with consumers.

1 theobromine	a set of fixed actions performed regularly, especially as part of a ceremony
2 rituals	to take pollen from one plant, or part of a plant, to another so that new plant seeds can be produced
3 pollination	something that exists in chocolate
4 alkaline salts	a chemical that can be added to food to improve it in some way
5 bitter	with a sharp, unpleasant taste

LIVEWORKSHEETS